

Issue 2/96

ECHO has moved

Our visiting address:

ECHO
4, rue Jos Felten
L-1508 Luxembourg-Howald

Our postal address remains:

ECHO
B.P. 2373
L-1023 Luxembourg.

Tel.: +352-401 162-200

Fax: +352-401 162-234.

We would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused to our clients during the office move.

Announcement

In its efforts to inform the public on EU funded R&D initiatives, the European Commission (EC) is now offering its innovative NEWS database on the WEB. Originally, access to R&D news was possible only via the telephone and X.25 network, but recognising the trend towards more efficient and economic technologies, the EC decided to exploit the WWW.

The WWW offers global coverage and easier access to core R&D information. All the user needs to do is to type the WEB location (or URL) <http://www.cordis.lu/> and use his intuition to retrieve the latest news.

NEWS has been designed to keep innovators one step ahead of the rest. About 10 news-breaking items in English, French and German are added on a daily basis. This will thus enable innovators to analyse and plan how to boost their business through innovation stimulating news.

So hurry! Get your NEWS off the WEB.

INFO2000 at the starting post

The European Union's INFO2000 programme was officially launched with a Council Decision on 20 May 1996. Earlier in the year the European Parliament delivered its opinion, underlining the need for a strategic programme and for an increased budget allocation. The new programme aims to stimulate the development of the European multimedia content industry and to encourage the use of multimedia content in the emerging information society. INFO2000 will focus on the transition from print to electronic publishing – from "scribe to screen" – and on the interactive multimedia services that are currently appearing on the market. The programme will operate for a period of four years (1996-1999). The Council Decision indicates a budget of 65 MECU.

First Calls for proposals

The areas for the first Calls for proposals which are likely to be published in the second quarter of 1996 are:

Establishment of a Multimedia Information Demonstration and Support Network (MIDAS-NET) composed of organisations that are active in promoting the Information Society within the European Economic Area (EEA). The activities to be undertaken will be complementary to these organisations' existing awareness and demonstration campaigns and are aimed at stimulating trans-border cooperation and encouraging the exchange and transfer of expertise at European level. The work will be supported on a shared-cost basis, with a Community contribution estimated at 100 000 ECU per year on average for each MIDAS node.

Stimulation of pilot projects that will catalyse the production of high-quality European multimedia content. Four subject areas are envisaged: the economic exploitation of Europe's cultural heritage; information services for business and in particular for SMEs; geographic information; and scientific, technical and medical information. The projects should build on the wealth of available European content. They should also show how techno-

In this issue:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Eurodicautom | p.3 |
| GATEWAYS | pp.6-7 |
| TED | pp.7-8 |
| NAPs | p.8 |
| CORDIS | pp. 10-11 |

CEE: XIII/57

When looking for a translation of a term the most interesting fields are the following:

| | |
|----|--------------------------|
| VE | Term (Vedette) |
| DF | Definition of the term |
| CM | Subject code of the term |
| NT | Explanatory note |

A typical definition of an abbreviation looks like this:

*q tva

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 1 FR Y* TVA | *taxe sur la valeur ajoutée |
| 2 DE N* TVA | *Tarif-und Verkehrsanzeiger |
| 3 DE N* TVA | *Telegrafen-Verteilamt |
| 4 DE N* TVA | *Telefon-Verwaltungs- und Auskunftssystem |
| 5 DE N* TVA | *technische Versuchsanstalt; technische Versuchsanlage |
| 6 DE Y* TVA | *Technische Verordnung vom 10. Dezember 1990 über |
| * | * Abfälle |
| 7 DE N* T.V.A. | *Technologie-Vermittlungsagentur |
| 8 EN N* tva | *thrust vector alignment |
| 9 EN Y* TVA | *Tennessee Valley Authority |
| 10 EN N* TVA | *Thames Valley Police Authority |
| 11 NL N* TVA | *technische voorschriften aan schaffing |
| 12 DA N* TVA | *TV-avisen |

Terms found by the user will appear in order of decreasing relevance – i.e. information most closely related to the question is displayed first, further replies appearing subsequently.

Special enhancements

As an enhancement to the retrieval language, the user is now able to see the number of the document which relates to the query. If the document is longer than one screen the user no longer has to type "C" to continue, but simply has to press the carriage return (enter) key.

Specifying languages

While searching for specific terms only, you may decide that you simply want the records displayed in certain languages. Database messages may also be displayed in the user's own language.

If, for example, you want to search for terminological equivalents from Spanish into German and Danish simply type:

* L ES DE DA

and the system will display documents in the German and Danish languages only.

The previous version of the query language required the user to commence every query by typing "Q" after the asterisk sign. This is no longer necessary in the terminology section but is still required for the abbreviation section.

On-line assistance

Help can be obtained at any moment during your on-line search by typing "H" at the asterisk.

Checking your search strategy

If you want to check which languages you are working in at any time during your on-line search simply type "F" at the asterisk.

Search operators

The new version of the CALL EDIC retrieval language incorporates an advanced facility for refining your searches, for example:

@ Limits the search so that the system finds only the term entered – e.g. illegal information@

@@ Indicates to the system that the user requires full match of the term entered – e.g. audit ambientale@@

Many languages contain words which are "stop words" (articles, prepositions, conjunctions, etc.) which must be indicated to the system if a correct translation is to be given. In order to do this the user should enter, for example: "circuit et*circuit ou*" which shows that the system must consider "et" and "ou" as significant words.

Display options

Each document displayed has a specific document number, for example, DOC=1/56.

If, after browsing through the data, you need to refer back to certain documents you may do so by typing, for example: -1 which indicates to the system that you want to look at the previous document. Similarly, if you wish to select a document from the list presented, simply type "=n" (n being the number of the relevant document).

The Q command can be used to define the profile of a search and the fields you specifically want to be displayed in the output. In addition it can be used to specify the output language. This is a valuable advantage for the user since it means that only the required data are transmitted. For example if you type:

Q decision

the full record relating to this term will be displayed. However, if you type:

Q decision; df=n

the system will not display the DF (definition) field.

A typical search may produce the following results. Please note that user input is shown in bold.

At the CCL prompt the user types:

? base eu92

BASE COMMAND ACCEPTED FOR EU92;EURODICAUTOM;LAST-UPDATE=31.07.1995

* EURODICAUTOM *

For detailed information on EURODICAUTOM, please type : "INFO EURODICAUTOM". Please type "CALL EDIC" to begin your search.

? call edic

PRESS L FOR TERMINOLOGY, X FOR ABBREVIATION

*l fr a

Using French as the source language, the user requests that the results of the translation are shown in all available languages.

SOURCE LANGUAGE :FR
TARGET LANGUAGE(S) :DE IT EN NL
DA ES PT LA SV FI
SUBJECT CODE(S) :
SEARCH PARAMETERS :
DISPLAY PARAMETERS :BE TY NI CF CM
AU VE MC DF PH AB PS NT RF CA
PLEASE ENTER A VALID COMMAND
PRESS Q OR ANOTHER COMMAND

*atelier logiciel @

The @ indicates that the system will only find the term entered.

DOC = 1/ 2 PAGE = 1
BE= TAI TY= ESP84 NI= 0020325
DATE = 920619 CF= 4
CM AUM
FR VE atelier logiciel;environnement
logiciel;atelier de génie logiciel
DF ensemble de composants et d'outils logiciels conçus de façon

spécifique pour la production de logiciels modulaires
 RF Décision inf.60/17.8.84-28;CGL2,214;La Recherche,3-85,367
 NT les environnements comprennent, par exemple, des logiciels capables de gérer l'historique des versions successives de chaque élément de programme, ainsi que des outils de mise au point permettant de surveiller le déroulement des programmes en cours de tests;ABR:AGL
 DE VE Software-Umgebung
 RF BSA,SM III
 IT VE ambiente di software
 DF insieme di strumenti software, sia di uso particolare che specifico, da impiegare come ausilio nello sviluppo di programmi
 RF Serafin-IBM
 NT gli ambienti di software possono fornire i mezzi tipici per le comunicazioni fra elaboratori, il collaudo, la rilevazione degli errori, la simulazione di macchina e dei programmi, la elaborazione dei testi, la progettazione assistita da elaboratore, la gestione delle librerie e impieghi speciali.

EURODICAUTOM is accessible in Latin-rich and Greek characters.

A specific NUA (Network User Address with 8 bits of data) is required for each:

For use of Greek characters dial:
 +270442124

For use of Latin-rich characters dial:
 +270442125

If you have any questions on the specific content of the EURODICAUTOM database please contact:

European Commission
 SdT/Terminology

Fax: +352-4301-34069 or
 Fax: +32-2-2950700.

Questions relating to EURODICAUTOM in general should be addressed to:

ECHO
 Tel.: +352-401162-200
 Fax: +352-401162-234
 E-mail: echo@echo.lu



Telework Congress Chance and Challenge for Europe

26 June 1996

10.00 Opening session

- Allocution d'ouverture par J.-C. Juncker, Premier ministre
- Allocution de bienvenue au nom du comité d'organisation par F. Meinköhn, Infopartners.

10.30 Visions

Chairman, G. Schaber

- Teleworking: double vision between hopes and concerns, G. Schaber
- Le télétravail dans la nouvelle culture de l'ère informationnelle, A. Danzin
- There is more to it and it is closer than you think, E. Britton
- Open debate.

12.30 Lunch

14.00 Economic and trade issues

Chairman, M. Lemmel

- Impacts industriels du télétravail, M. Lemmel
- Télétravail, téléactivité et globalisation de l'économie, A. Rosenholc
- Telework to enhance economic integration with distant regions: the EU and Mercosur case, J. Grompone
- Telework and teletrade: practical steps towards new jobs and new work opportunities for Europe, H. Mitchell
- Télétravail et téléactivités, des solutions concrètes au service de l'entreprise, B. Lazare
- Introduction of Telework in IBM Germany, W. Zorn
- The P&T telework case study, M. Barnig
- Open debate.

27 June 1996

09.30 Social and education issues

Chairman, Mr. J. Rantanen

- Demands of the information society for working capacity and competences, J. Rantanen
- Putting international technology in local development, L. Holloway
- Corporate restructuring and telework, C. J. Coulson-Thomas
- What about the workers? A. Bibby
- Legal and contractual situation of teleworkers, R. Blanpain
- Social-legal protection and health issues, F. Pennings

- Distance learning with a virtual campus: the Open University of Catalonia, A. Riu
- Open debate.

12.30 Lunch

14.00 European challenges

Chairman, R. Verrue

- Introductory speech, R. Verrue
- Recommendations of the working group Impact on the economy of employment, J. Majo
- Policy initiatives in employment, EC DG V
- New challenges and opportunities from technology development, P. Johnston, EC DG XIII
- Challenges related to open and distance learning, S. Corti, EC DG XXII
- The challenge of structure and introduction of telework, P. Verderio, ETUC
- Employers and business points of view in European challenges, UNICE
- Open debate.

20.00 Banquet

28 June 1996

09.30 Discussion panel

Chairman, M. Carpentier

- General report on the first two days of the Congress, U. Huws
- Round table on the challenges and expectations resulting from the new telework perspectives; the panel will include economists, sociologists, field specialists and personalities from the working world, such as W. Buschak, A. Danzin, J. Majo, J. Rantanen, G. Schaber, M. Soete and X. Darmstaedter who will engage in discussions with all the Congress participants
- Conclusions and recommendations, M. Carpentier.

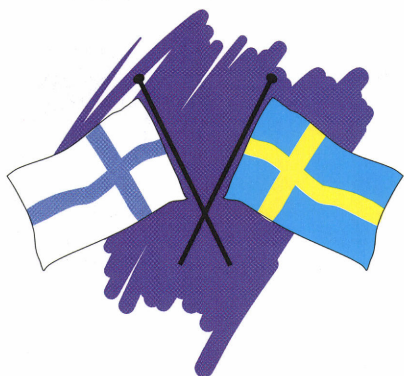
12.30 End of the congress

Simultaneous translation is provided in English, French and German

To obtain a registration form, please contact:

The Organisation committee

Tel.: +352 2957593-283
 Fax: +352 401162-331
 E-mail: telework@ip.lu



Our series of gateway profiles continues with contributions from those situated in Iceland and Sweden.

Skýrr Ltd. Crossroads of information

Information gathering and exchange as well as information processing are vital to the performance of every society. The importance of modern information technology was realised at an early stage by the Icelandic authorities and in 1952 the state, the City of Reykjavík and the Reykjavík Municipal Electric Utility co-operated to found the State and Municipal Data Processing Center – Skýrr.

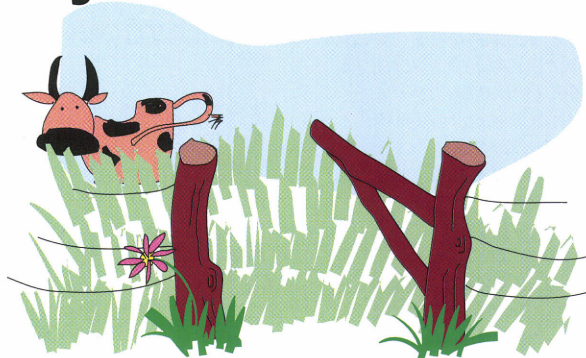
Skýrr is in charge of the State and City's data banks. It develops and runs extensive information systems which all the State and City's agencies use to their advantage. The systems are interconnected so that each of the agency's data is accessible to others. Client/server and EDI offer greater opportunities for automatic data exchange. With this system, the authorities can provide the whole of Iceland with the same quality of information services. Over 500 companies use Skýrr including all major Governmental institutions and Ministries and all large municipalities including the Municipality of Reykjavík.

In addition Skýrr:

- provides access to information about Icelandic societies, i.e., car registry, national registry, ship registry, taxation system, social and welfare benefits
- develops and operates systems for government and local communities.

Information exchange between countries is growing – especially in Europe. Skýrr plays an important role in connecting Iceland to the rest of the world. Access to all major EU on-line

Gateway Profiles



databases such as those hosted on EUR-OP and ECHO is available through the Skýrr gateway service. In addition, Skýrr was a partner in MODE, (music on demand) an IMPACT programme project collaborating with seven companies from seven countries.

Skýrr has in depth experience in developing and operating systems for the Government and local communities.

Skýrr offers:

- consultancy in software development
- consultancy in operating computer centres
- software solutions in NATURAL/ADABAS.
- Iceland on-line / Uppl=FDsingaheimar, available on the Internet (www.skýrr.is)
- ASK, a tourist information kiosk (also available on the Internet - www.skýrr.is)
- PC-Doc=AE, Imaging solution.

Skýrr

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IS-108 Reykjavík

Tel: +354-569-5100
E-mail skýrr@skýrr.is
Fax: +354-569-5251
WWW home page: www.skýrr.is

InfoTorg, the on-line and gateway service of Sema Group InfoData

InfoTorg is the leading Swedish on-line and gateway service. Operated by Sema Group InfoData AB, it provides access to two thirds of the public databases on-line in Sweden. The content of the databases (some 120 in total) ranges from official and legal information to environmental and business information. InfoTorg also gives access to hundreds of multi-national databases. Among them are TED at ECHO and the databases of Eurobases. The computer operation is handled by

Sema Group AB, one of the biggest service bureau in Scandinavia. The communications network used is an X.25 national network.

About 65 of InfoTorg's databases are hosted by Sema Group InfoData and are located at the Sema Group AB. About 55 databases are on-line via some 15 other Swedish hosts and are accessible via InfoTorg through gateways.

InfoTorg is the leading provider of EU related information on-line in Sweden. Firstly, Sema Group InfoData is the official Swedish representative for the databases of EUR-OP. As such, InfoTorg has a gateway to Eurobases and ECHO (including TED).

Secondly, under a special agreement with EUR-OP, adapted versions of CELEX and TED in the Swedish language are set up at Sema Group InfoData and are searchable under the advanced free-text system "Find-It" which also provides SDI services.

Thirdly, there are some 10 databases produced in Sweden which contain information on EU issues such as Swedish EU specialists, questions and answers about the EU, regulations overviews, etc. The database SCFE (Spicers) from Consultancy Europe, UK, is also available. SCFE contains references to EU documents, journals, newsletters etc. All these databases are searchable under "Find-It".

InfoTorg also provides access to EasyNet, the USA based gateway service of Telebase, Inc., which provides access to about 900 databases on-line at Knight-Ridder Information (Dialog and DataStar), STN International, Quest-ORBIT, NewsNet, and others.

InfoTorg is perhaps most well-known abroad for the operation of the Swedish legal information system "Rättsbanken", consisting of nearly

50 databases, operated by the Sema Group InfoData (searchable under "Find-It"). Among other well-known databases also operated by the Sema Group InfoData are the official Swedish population register "SPAR", the company and organisation register "BASUN", the company financial reports database MMA, the environmental databases within Environment On-line and the directory Nordic Databases, produced by Nordinfo.

Among the Swedish hosts accessible via InfoTorg via gateways are the leading business database host Affärsdata (about 15 databases), the veteran host within medicine/biomedicine Medlars-at-MIC (about 20 databases, including Medline), the official company register of Sweden PRV/Companies & Trading companies, the Swedish and European patent databases within PRV/Patlink, the official automobile register of Sweden VTR/CBKR, the two credit information hosts UpplysningCentralen UC and Dun&Bradstreet Soliditet, the financial real-time hosts Aktievisionen and Börsspecial, the Swedish Telephone Directory On-line, the Postal Zip Codes Directory, Statistics Sweden with Swedish and international (e.g. OECD) official statistics, the National research library catalogue KB/Libris and the largest Swedish daily newspaper Dagens Nyheter on-line – just to mention a few. In addition to these a number of new hosts and databases will soon be accessible via InfoTorg.

InfoTorg and all of its hosts and databases can be accessed by virtually all equipment, communication products and networks on the market. Dial-up as well as leased lines, the Internet as well as X.25, may be used. Users of hundreds of private networks in Sweden can access InfoTorg directly, searching the databases via the IBM full screen protocol IBM 3270 and a very user-friendly interface. Sema Group InfoData provides specially designed software for users of PCs, Macintoshes and LANs, allowing all the functions of IBM 3270 or MS Windows interfaces.

Before the Summer of 1996 InfoTorg will also be found on the World Wide Web and will be accessible by means of any standard web browser.

Sema Group InfoData
Box 34101
S-10026 Sweden
Tel. +46 8 7384480.

TED – A spotlight on legal aspects



Whilst minor tenders remain on a national or regional level, tenders which exceed certain threshold levels have to be published in TED/ Supplement S as a result of EU directives and international agreements. As new directives or agreements come into force, it is useful that TED users are, to some extent, familiar with the legal background of the database. Documents published within TED and the Supplement S are there as a result of the legal background outlined below.

The importance of invitations to tender

Every day, hundreds of tenders from Europe and other countries are published and made available through TED (Tenders Electronic Daily), the on-line version of the "Supplement S to the Official Journal of the European Communities". Public Calls for Tender in the European Union alone represent 12 percent of the total gross national product and amount to an estimated value of ECU 500 billion in contracts per year. The business community is notified of these tenders through the Official Journal and TED, the on-line version of this publication.

As the European Union progresses new directives come into force and those which already exist begin to have greater impact. In addition, new public procurement agreements, such as those with the USA and the European Economic Area, enlarge the markets. Therefore, the volume of data placed on the TED database is con-

stantly expanding (from 1986 to 1995 the number of documents published in the database increased more than 700%).

The "single market" requires closer business relations between the Member States, which of course has made it necessary for all aspects of the market to be open to the European public in the form of invitations to tender. As a consequence, all EU tenders published in TED are open under the same conditions to bidders from all EU Member States. Tenders published under other agreements (e.g. GPA) are open to all bidders from these countries.

EU directives

Tenders from awarding authorities in the Member States of the European Union or the European Economic Area must be published in TED/ Supplement S if they are above the following threshold levels indicated in the table below.

Exceptions:

Services: Exceptions to the rule may occur with architectural, engineering and urban development. These sectors require invitations to tender if the public works contracts which follow the original invitation to tender are valued at ECU 5 000 000 or more.

Central government: Organisations relating to the central government are also bound by a different threshold level which stems from the participation of the EU in the GPA. This threshold level is ECU 137 537.

| | Works | Supplies | Services |
|---|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| "Traditional" awarding authorities | ECU 5 000 000 | ECU 200 000 | ECU 200 000 |
| Awarding authorities in the sectors of water, energy, transport | ECU 5 000 000 | ECU 400 000 | ECU 400 000 |
| Awarding authorities in the sectors of telecommunication | ECU 5 000 000 | ECU 600 000 | ECU 600 000 |

Remarks:
Directives governing these thresholds:

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| "Traditional" awarding authorities - Works: | Works directive (93/37/EEC) |
| "Traditional" awarding authorities - Supplies: | Supplies directive (93/36/EEC) |
| "Traditional" awarding authorities - Services: | Services directive (92/50/EEC) |

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Awarding authorities in the sectors of water, energy, transport or telecommunications: | Utilities directive (93/38/EEC) |
|--|---------------------------------|

Notes:

Awarding authorities in the sectors of water, energy, transport and telecommunications, also called "Utilities", have to publish invitations to tender independent of their legal status (public or private).

At the beginning of the (budgetary) year the contracting authorities announce the total value of procurement they plan to award for the following year where the estimated value is greater than or equal to ECU 750 000 (supplies, services) / ECU 5 000 000 (works). This information is published as "pre-information" in TED.

All threshold levels do not include VAT.

Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

Contracts under the GPA (formerly GATT) agreement have slightly different threshold levels.

Signed on 15 April 1994 in Marrakech, important improvements have been made to the opening-up of public procurement beyond the EU borders. The Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) was signed by the EU and seven countries (Norway, Switzerland, Israel, South Korea, Canada, Japan and the USA) and came into force on 1 January 1996.

The thresholds are expressed in SDR (Special Drawing Rights); SDR 1 is worth ca ECU 1.05. The new contracts open to all GPA signing countries include:

USA: (Central government, State authorities in 39 States, City authorities in 5 Cities): Supplies valued at ECU 137 537 or more (SDR 130 000), Services valued at ECU 137 537 or more (SDR 130 000), Construction valued at ECU 5 289 883 or more (SDR 5 000 000). All contracts issued by electricity companies. Contracts issued by some airports and harbours.

Japan: Public contracts issued by the Central Government, 47 local authorities and in the area of water; airports; harbours.

Norway: Public contracts issued by the Central Government and in the area of water; electricity; airports.

Switzerland: Public contracts issued by the Central Government and in the area of water; electricity; airports.

South Korea: Public contracts issued by the Central Government and in the area of water; electricity; harbours.

Israel: Public contracts issued by the Central Government and in the area of water; electricity; airports; harbours.

The European Commission is constantly making efforts to open up more public markets. Consequently, since going to press, new sectors and even new countries may have been added to this list.

For more information, please contact the European Commission, DG XV-B-3, Mr C. Romanini, (fax +32 2 296 0962).

European Institutions

Calls for Tender issued by projects financed by the European Institutions, in particular the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Development Fund (EDF) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) are published in TED. Countries which are most concerned are those within the ACP (70 countries in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions) and Eastern European countries.

Calls for Tender in the framework of Community programmes (Framework, Sprint, Value, Esprit, Eureka, Thermie, INFO2000 etc.) as well as other important tenders for European Institutions in general (such as constructing offices for the Court of Justice, providing chairs for the European Parliament etc.) are also published in TED. (Tenders from the European Commission are published in both the Official Journal C and TED/ Supplement S on the same day.)

TIP:

Directives and agreements may be subject to last minute changes. Please check for any alterations on-line using the command INFO TDCONT.

TED on the Internet

TED users will be interested to note that a new section on TED has been added to the I*M Europe WWW. The section is a useful introduction to the database and can be accessed by opening the following URL:

<http://www2.echo.lu/echo/data/bases/ted/en/tedhome.html/>

The new version of the TED User Guide (April 1996) is available from:

<ftp://ftp.echo.lu/pub/ted>

**NAP activities**

The following list is accurate at the time of going to press and provides information on activities planned between June and July 1996. Contact your local NAP for further details.

AUSTRIA

Techninform-WKÖ

"Nutzung von Datenbanken"

Date: 10/06/96

Place: Klagenfurt

"Nutzung von Datenbanken"

Date: 01/07/96

Place: Salzburg

DENMARK

INFOSCAN

"EU legal databases"

Date: 06-07/06/96

Place: Copenhagen

"Patents and Trademarks"

Date: 11-14/06/96

Place: Copenhagen

"Scientific and Technical Information"

Date: 18/06/96

Place: Copenhagen

FRANCE

ADBS Association Française des Professionnels de l'information et de la Documentation

"Savoir utiliser la documentation Européenne"

Date: 05-07/06/96

Place: Paris

"Pratiquer INTERNET"

Date: 20-21/06/96

Place: Paris

NETHERLANDS

NBBI

"Multimedia for Internal and External Communication"

Date: 30/06/96

Place: The Hague

SWEDEN

IDC/KTHB Information and Documentation Centre

"Seminar on the Swedish Geological Database"

Date: 03/06/96

Place: Stockholm

INFO2000 INFORMATION DAYS IN EEA COUNTRIES

VTT (combined with Information Engineering. Information Day)

Date: 11/06/96
Place: Helsinki

Statskonsult/INFOSOK

Date: 18/06/96
Place: Oslo

ENEA

Date: 24/06/96
Place: Bologna

Date: 25/06/96
Place: Torino

aBaCus/BTIS/Forbairt

Date: 26/06/96
Place: Dublin

Pitagora/AIB

Date: 26/06/96
Place: Naples

IDC/Statskontoret

Date: 26/06/96
Place: Stockholm

Pitagora

Date: 27/06/96
Place: Milan

ASEDIE/CINDOC

Date: 27/06/96
Place: Madrid

AF2i

Date: 27/06/96
Place: Paris

ADBS

Date: 03/07/96
Place: Paris

ÖGDI

Date: 04/07/96
Place: Vienna

TVAVIW

Date: 04/07/96
Place: Berlin

CCIP

Date: 04/07/96
Place: Paris

INETI

Date: 04/07/96
Place: Lisbon

NBBI

Date: 04/07/96
Place: The Hague

NDC

Date: 05/07/96
Place: Athens

SET/ University of Dundee

Date: 10/07/96
Place: Glasgow

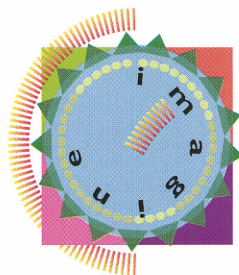
Aslib

Date: 11/07/96
Place: London

DGD

Date: 11/07/96
Place: Baden-Baden

IMAGINE – ISDN-based Multimedia Awareness Tool, Generating Informed New End-Users



IMAGINE was developed as a training and awareness tool under action line 3 "Increasing user friendliness and improving information literacy" of the former IMPACT 2 programme.

The IMAGINE workstation was developed to follow in the footsteps of TUTOR, a stand-alone workstation which demonstrated the concept and technologies related to electronic information provision – a tool widely and successfully used by the NAPs (National Awareness Partners). IMAGINE is a more versatile and powerful tool well suited to perform in today's information market, since it is one which is based on emerging technologies such as the Internet, ISDN and Multimedia. Since its successful launch during On-line Information '95 IMAGINE has received a lot of well deserved attention. It has been carefully evaluated by two of the NAPs as well as an independent consultant whose opinions of the workstation indicate that the opportunities to exploit IMAGINE to its full potential know no bounds. The workstation is not static and has been developed using a modular approach, where new modules can be added according to demand.

IMAGINE has received rave reviews! The evaluators have already confirmed its value as a training tool for educational institutions and SMEs (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) proving that it is already well in tune with its overall objective "to introduce the concept of information as a strategic resource to SMEs and providing the basic training on this". It is the NAPs who will initially play a major role in the distribution and promotion of the system towards SMEs and intermediaries such as EICs (Euro Info Centres), business associations, universities, training organisations, Chambers of Commerce and the like.

The inclusion of new modules to broaden the content of the workstation is a high priority for the European Commission. The modules will be carefully selected by the Commission following a Call for Tender which will be published at a later date. The modules should be available for the users off-line and on-line. Thus distributing the modules on CD-ROM, the Internet and EURO-ISDN are vital.

The Multimedia Information Revolution:



New Opportunities for Europe

An Information Day on the above theme organised by DG XIII-E held in Rome on 22 March in conjunction with the EDI-MEDIA multimedia and electronic publishing conference attracted over 470 participants from 18 countries. Opening addresses were given by Carla Guiducci-Bonnani, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Cultural and Environmental Affairs, and Francesco Sicilia, Director General of the Books, Cultural Institutions and Publishing section of the Ministry of Cultural and Environmental Affairs.

The half-day programme included the following presentations:

The transformation of the IT industry in the information society

Elserino Piol, Vice President Olivetti SpA

Multimedia Initiatives of the European Union

Frans de Bruïne, Director DG XIII-E, European Commission

INFO2000: Scribe to Screen

Axel Szauer, Deputy Head of Unit, DG XIII-E, European Commission

Edusex: A European electronic publishing success supported by IMPACT 2,

Marco Bergometti, Giunti Multimedia.

The European Commission, DG XIII-E, also participated in the accompanying exhibition. The stand featured demonstrations of I*M EUROPE (see page 11), the IMAGINE multimedia workstation (see page 9), and two IMPACT projects, Edusex and BISNET. The three Italian National Awareness Partners – AIB, ENEA and Pitagora – were also represented on the stand.

Powerpoint slides of the presentation are available on I*M Europe WWW server (<http://www.echo.lu/>).



Community R&D Information Service

For the 16 million SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises), the opening up of the borders of the EU (European Union) has meant an increase in competition on the one hand, while an encouragement to undertake foreign market and joint ventures on the other. This means that most SMEs can no longer ignore the possibility of cross-border trading as a means of their survival and the 110 million people they employ depends upon it.⁽¹⁾

With new business opportunities on the horizon, one of the major problems facing SMEs to innovate in order to be more competitive and enter into foreign markets, is the lack of information. They may quickly become discouraged because of the lack of information and knowledge of the foreign local markets or they might even end up with "information overload" which is sometimes made worse by being in an indecipherable language.

What the SMEs need in order to innovate is to be able to obtain all the technological information that they require on foreign markets from a local source which has the right contacts and is well networked. Indeed, with a focus on Research & Development (R&D), such an initiative has been taken by the European Commission "to promote innovation, encourage the exchange of information on research, technology transfer, and successful exploitation of research results". This is the INNOVATION programme which falls under the Fourth Framework Programme for RTD (1994-1998).

The CORDIS Multipliers: Helping SMEs

The areas supported by the INNOVATION programme are:

- (1). An Environment Favouring Innovation and the Absorption of Technologies
- (2). The Circulation of Technologies
- (3). The Supply of Technologies.

An action carried out under the third area supported by the INNOVATION Programme is that of the Community Information and Dissemination Service. One of its key services is CORDIS (which has been available on-line since 1990). Initially, CORDIS provided comprehensive information on RTD activities from the programme initiation phase, right up to its results. However, with the increasing interest and participation in R&D activities (also reflected by the CORDIS customer base of 20 000), the activities of CORDIS have been greatly expanded.

Acting as a multiple communication channel, a network of 400 decentralised CORDIS multipliers has been set up to generally promote interest in EU R&D and to specifically stimulate and promote interest in CORDIS. The multipliers therefore act as support and information disseminators to cater for the local needs of the users coming from Government Administrations, Large Enterprises, SMEs, etc. They also encourage synergies between the users in both the public and the private sectors as it is in their interests to participate in Community R&D initiatives or even exploit their results.

The specific services offered by the multipliers include:

- first-hand information on EU R&D
- state-of-the-art workshops and training on retrieving information from CORDIS
- assisting in finding partners for collaborating in R&D tenders, calls for proposals and the like
- providing links to EU contact points, research programmes and other networks.

The key CORDIS multipliers are the same organisations which also act as the IRCs (Innovation Relay Centres). Being well established organisations at national and regional level they have proven credibility in promoting innovation (the IRC role) and disseminating RTD information (the CORDIS Multiplier role). There are 52 Centres situated throughout the EU as well as Norway and Iceland. They have an in-depth knowledge of their national and local markets and their requirements, and are able to communicate with SMEs in their respective national languages.

The specific services provided by the IRCs include:

Inward Technology Transfer Services: identification of local needs and of the suitable technologies to match those needs.

Outward Technology Services: assistance to local organisations in the promotion of their technologies to other regions or countries.

Advisory Services: advice and training in innovation, technology transfer and exploitation of results. If you would like to get into contact with a CORDIS mul-

I am interested in receiving information on

CORDIS ON-LINE DATABASES ☐

CORDIS DATABASES ON CD-ROM ☐

Watch-CORDIS ☐

Name

Organisation/Company

Address

City

Country

Are you an ECHO user? If so, please provide your User Reg. No. 00 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

CORDIS Customer Service, B.P. 2373, L-1023 Luxembourg.
CORDIS fax (+352) 401 162-248

tiplier, please contact CORDIS in Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 401162-431, fax: (+352) 401162-248, e-mail: p.cornelius@cordis.lu.

(1) Approximately 99,8% of all enterprises in Europe are SMEs – only 30.000 are large enterprises. The SMEs employ approximately 66% of the working population of 165 million – in businesses but not in agriculture and administrations. Source: Eurostat.

Multilingual News Database accessible through WATCH-CORDIS

In the last version of ECHO Facts for Users (1/96) we announced that the RTD-News database is now also available in French (RDT-Nouvelles) and German (FTE-Nachrichten). Our users will be pleased to know that these databases are accessible through Watch-CORDIS, the user-friendly Windows interface to the CORDIS on-line databases.

If you are using Watch-CORDIS version 1.13b, the new databases may be downloaded through telesoftware i.e. your software will update itself to include RDT-Nouvelles and FTE-Nachrichten, subject to the initiation of the update procedure. The new release of Watch-CORDIS, version 1.14, which includes the two new databases, is available (together with its accompanying manual) for downloading from the CORDIS World-Wide-Web server (URL: <http://www.cordis.lu/>), under the section "CORDIS Products". The software may also be ordered via normal mail from the CORDIS helpdesk tel.: (+352) 401162-240, fax: (+352) 401162-248, e-mail: helpdesk@cordis.lu.

Multilinguale Nachrichten-datenbank über Watch CORDIS zugänglich

In der letzten Ausgabe von ECHO Facts for Users (1/96) kündigten wir das Erscheinen der RTD-Datenbank in deutsch (FTE-Nachrichten) und Französisch (RDT-Nouvelles) an. Unsere Nutzer werden erfreut sein, zu erfahren, daß diese Datenbanken über Watch-CORDIS, dem nutzer freundlichen Windows-Interface zu den CORDIS-Datenbanken, zugänglich sind.

Wenn Sie Watch-CORDIS in der Version 1.13b nutzen, können Sie die neuen Datenbanken mit einer Telesoftware dazuladen, d.h. die Software wird sich automatisch selbst aktualisieren und den Zugang zu den FTE-

Nachrichten und RDT-Nouvelles hinzufügen. Die neue Watch-CORDIS –Version 1.14, die schon die neuen Datenbanken erhält, ist (zusammen mit einem Handbuch) über das CORDIS Helpdesk erhältlich. Sie können sie von dem CORDIS World Wide Web – Server herunterladen (<http://www.cordis.lu>, Sektion: "CORDIS Products") oder auf dem Postweg bestellen (CORDIS helpdesk, Tel.: (+352) 401162-240, Fax: (+352) 401162-248, e-mail: helpdesk@cordis.lu).

La base de données multilingue "Nouvelles", accessible sur Watch-CORDIS

Dans la dernière édition de ECHO Facts for Users (1/96) nous avons annoncé que la base de données RTD-News est maintenant également accessible en français (RDT-Nouvelles) et en allemand (FTE-Nachrichten). Nous avons le plaisir d'annoncer à nos utilisateurs que ces bases de données sont accessibles sur Watch-CORDIS, l'interface graphique utilisateur à CORDIS online.

Si vous utilisez Watch-CORDIS version 1.13b, ces nouvelles bases de données peuvent être téléchargées. Votre logiciel sera mis à jour pour inclure RDT-Nouvelles et FTE-Nachrichten, après avoir activé la procédure de mise à jour. La nouvelle version de Watch-CORDIS 1.14, qui inclut les deux nouvelles bases de données, peut être téléchargée (+ un manuel d'utilisation) du serveur CORDIS sur le World-Wide-Web (URL: <http://www.cordis.lu/>), sous la rubrique "CORDIS Products". Le logiciel peut être aussi commandé par courrier auprès de CORDIS helpdesk tel.: (+352) 401162-240, fax: (+352) 401162-248, e-mail: helpdesk@cordis.lu.

Multilingual EU R&D News accessible on the CORDIS WWW Server

CORDIS is pleased to announce a valuable addition to its World-Wide-Web Server. During the month of May, the News database will be launched on the server, with the search interface and data content in English, French and German.

This new facility provides easier access to EU R&D news in the areas of specific interest such as calls for proposals, events, new initiatives, new publications and much more.

The URL of our server is <http://www.cordis.lu/>.

I*M-EUROPE WWW server is gradually becoming multilingual

I*M-EUROPE has now been in operation for almost two years. In this time it has become one of the leading WWW sites in the world and logs an average of 170 000 document accesses per month. Over 8 000 web pages worldwide reference the various sections of the server. The Wall Street Journal Europe recently included I*M Europe amongst the 10 best business information web sites in the World (1)

I*M Europe's success resides with a dedicated effort to offer the users relevant, reliable and up-to-date information of high quality. Currently the server holds more than 1 100 documents and new ones are being added almost every day. The documents are not only offered in English, but also in other languages of the European Union. French and German documents are most frequently available besides English.

INFO2000 ON I*M-EUROPE

(<http://www.echo.lu/info2000/en/info2000index.html>)

I*M-EUROPE is the main outlet for the INFO2000 programme. Official texts, communications, programmes of events, proceedings, etc. are all published on I*M EUROPE. Documents released in March 1996 are the draft workprogramme and the various presentations given by the DG XIII/E officials during the INFO2000 open day held in Rome. The presentations are available as Powerpoint slides in English as well as in Italian.

The Legal Advisory Board

(<http://www.echo.lu/legal/en/lab-home.html>)

The LAB section on I*M-EUROPE is evolving into an exhaustive and reliable source of European legal information related to the information market. The section has recently been enhanced with a set of directives in English, French and German. (Please check the LAB what's new page on <http://www.echo.lu/legal/en/lab-new.html>)

Telematics for Libraries

(<http://www.echo.lu/libraries/en/libraries.html>)

A unique WWW source of information on the European library scene. The section is gradually becoming multilin-

gual with the recent additions of some documents in French and German. The section provides a reliable and up-to-the-minute information service on the Telematics for Libraries actions and initiatives.

A Network of NAP Servers

(<http://www.echo.lu/impact/en/naps.html>)

Not only do we speak of and demonstrate the benefits of using new technologies in relation to electronic information, we also use them ourselves!

The expertise and support of the National Awareness Partner network is now available to SMEs and libraries via the World Wide Web. A coherent, homogeneous, multilingual WWW network now exists Europe wide for the dissemination and discussion of information market issues, serving the needs of the main players in this market. Twenty-two NAPs have World Wide Web sites in accordance to a set of guidelines, previously agreed in order to underline a coherent, consistent image, that is with a common structure, a common appearance, pertinent hyperlinks, reflecting the common image with the chosen logo, but tailored to the local market, in the local language.

NAP sites offer

- details of seminars, workshops, and conferences being offered by the NAP in the realm of the information market
- events being attended or hosted by the NAP
- documentation and software available
- information on national initiatives on the information superhighway
- current developments and future moves within the information content industry
- information society issues, and how they affect the local market
- a practical example to SMEs and libraries of the use of electronic information, presenting and demonstrating its benefits
- the role that electronic information services can play for SMEs and libraries
- pertinent links to I*M Europe and other related WWW sites (see below).

Visitors to the sites have the opportunity to register for training sessions or events on-line, to download documents and software, or to order it on-line, and also to partake in discussion forums, conducive to the free exchange of ideas.

The role of I*M Europe in supporting the NAP WWW network

I*M Europe acts as a central enabler for the NAP servers, offering umbrella support services to the network of National Awareness Partners. Examples of such services are lists of FAQs from customers, access to an on-line helpdesk via an e-mail form, and the availability of powerful indexing and searching tools.

I*M Europe also hosts a BBS (Bulletin Board System) for the NAPs, where ideas of pertinence to the network as a whole and to the information content industry in particular may be discussed in an open forum.

Access to the servers of those NAPs with established servers is available via I*M Europe both from the complete list of National Awareness Partners, detailed under the IMPACT programme, giving descriptions of each organisation, and from the clickable sensitive map.

The comprehensive hyperlinks between the individual NAP servers and I*M Europe reflect the high level of interactivity and constant information exchange which take place between I*M Europe and the NAP WWW servers.

The NAP information network has positioned itself, quite rightly, as the expert source for information market related information, through the provision of resources and background information indispensable to the industry. They are the reference base on information content.

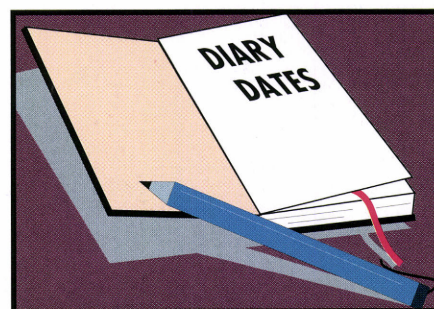
This success demonstrates and underlines the dynamism of the network in increasing awareness across Europe of the benefits to be derived from the use of electronic information.

Customers are offered a cost effective, user-friendly access to all aspects related to information society issues, and information on the developments and initiatives launched by DG XIII in response to these changes, in a comprehensive and pertinent manner.

The sites are monitored regularly, resulting in a high level of currency and interactivity.

The establishment of this information dissemination network marks another step in the servicing of Europe's multilingual information needs.

(1) Wall Street Journal Europe, Convergence – March 1996 – Circulation of the issue reached 66 000 (including copies distributed at CeBit)



ECHO will be represented at the following exhibitions

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Frankfurt | Infobase '96 21-23/05/96 |
| Paris | IDT 21-23/05/96 |
| Paris | On-line '96 05-07/06/96 |
| Frankfurt | Book Fair 02-07/10/96 |
| Trieste | Bibliotexpo '96 11/96 |
| London | On-line 96 03-05/12/96 |

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